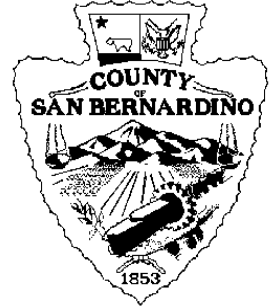


NEWS

From the Office of

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POSTMUS REVIEWS PLANS FOR ROCK SPRINGS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION CALLS FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

HESPERIA -- San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Bill Postmus reviewed plans today for the reconstruction of Rock Springs Road where it crosses the Mojave River. Rock Springs Road is a major east-west thoroughfare between southern Apple Valley and Hesperia. The road has been closed since early this year when it was severely damaged by floodwaters during winter storms. Floodwaters flowed out of the mountains and were worsened by water released from Silverwood Lake by the State Department of Water Resources.

Damage to Rock Springs Road was so extensive that complete reconstruction is required. Supervisor Postmus met with media and public works officials today at the site of the washout to review plans to rebuild the road. The reconstruction is expected to cost \$1 million.

Supervisor Postmus said, "We need this road to be opened as soon as possible. Nearly 11,000 cars used to use this road every day. Those people now have to use Bear Valley Road, which is already overcrowded."

Supervisor Postmus has directed that this project be given the highest priority by the County Public Works department and the department has responded by working diligently to get the project completed and reopened as soon as possible. The Federal Highways Administration denied a request by the County for an "emergency opening" of the crossing due to the fact that a detour is available for motorists.

Plans for the reconstruction of the road are complete and the county is awaiting approval from CalTrans that would exempt the project from environmental study requirements. In addition to that exemption, the county is awaiting permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game. Construction cannot begin until those approvals are received.

Supervisor Postmus called on those agencies to get the permits approved now so that construction can begin. "These agencies need to help us out and get those permits approved right now. We are only asking to be able to rebuild a road that has been in use for decades. We shouldn't have to get environmental approval for that."